



# Agronomy Newsletter

April, 2008

## SASKATOON CO-OP AGRO CENTRE NEWS

### **Patronage Refunds**

The Saskatoon Co-op Board of Directors released the figures for the patronage allocation for the 2007 financial year. A general cash repayment of 4.2 million dollars will be made to Saskatoon Co-op members. The repayment percentages include an 8.55% patronage refund on fuel and a 2.65% patronage refund for crop protection and hardware. The equity ranges vary. Customers who have between \$10 - \$1000 dollars of equity at the Saskatoon Co-op will be receiving 30% of the allocation in cash. Customers who have from \$1001 - \$3000 dollars in equity will be receiving 35% of the allocation in cash. Customers who have over \$3000 dollars in equity will be receiving 40% of the allocation in cash with the remainder remaining in equity. Join us for the Saskatoon Co-op Equity day's celebration to be held on Thursday June 5th and Friday June 6th, 2008. More details will be presented in future correspondence.

### **Staff Update**

Joining the Saskatoon Co-op Agro team is Ed Pearce. Ed is our new lease owner/operator for our fuel truck delivery units. Ed purchased the fuel trucks from Darwin Haersch. Ed is originally from Harris, Saskatchewan. His parents still own and operate a 4000 acre grain and cattle farm. Prior to purchasing the fuel delivery business, Ed worked road construction for the past 7 to 8 years. The last 3 years he operated as foreman for the road construction crew. Ed looks forward to meeting with all our customers and growing his new business.

### **Farm Fuel Upgrade Program**

Producers, have you considered upgrading your farm fuel storage? The Saskatoon Co-op offers a diverse farm fuel upgrade program. We carry a variety of farm fuel storage tanks from 500 gallon single wall tanks up to 10,000 gallon double wall tanks, complete with all required accessories to suit your needs! Let the Saskatoon Co-op help you upgrade your fuel storage requirements to a safe, efficient and environmentally accepted system.

### **Grain Bin Update**

Grain bins are moving fast, however we have a number still available ranging in size from 2000 to over 10,000 bushels from such trusted names as Westeel and Meridian/Wheatland. As well we have Westfield grain augers ranging from 36 to 71 feet and 8 to 13 inch diameter (some still at last year's pricing!!) Remember, at the Saskatoon Co-op Agro Center you can lease your purchase through Agrifinance and now financing is available through FCC as well. There has not been a better time to upgrade your grain handling equipment, so please call Darcy at (306) 933-3834 to discuss your grain handling needs for the upcoming harvest.

## **Protect your stored grain with the EasyCheck System from Westeel**

You have put a great deal of time and effort into producing your crop, and you have a large amount of money tied up in it. Commodity prices are at record highs right now, so why let heating and spoilage steal your profits? The EasyCheck system is an incredibly simple and cost effective way of preventing heating in your bins. The system is composed of 2 parts, a Temperature Cable and a Handheld Monitor. The cable is permanently mounted in your bin before the bin is filled at harvest. It hangs from the roof, and is tied to either the floor or the inside of the cone. It has between 4 and 7 temperature sensors along its length, depending on the height of the bin. Once the cable is installed, the end can be plugged into the monitor and an instant temperature is recorded from each sensor. You can save the information in the monitor and watch for trends daily, weekly or monthly, alerting you of any potential hot-spots. This gives you the information you need to turn on the aeration fan or move the grain to cool it. To simplify the process, cables can be hooked in series to allow the operator to stand in one location and monitor a whole line of bins simultaneously. This information can also be downloaded from the handheld monitor into your home computer for record keeping as well. The monitor sells for less than \$1000 and the cables are between \$200 and \$300 each (depending on the length, thus the amount of sensors,) however the peace of mind this product offers is priceless!! Stop by the Saskatoon Co-op Agro Center soon for a demonstration.

## **Product Availability- Canola Seed + Pulse inoculants**

The Saskatoon Co-op had an extremely busy winter for canola seed and inoculant bookings. As a result, many items are either in a sold out position or close to being sold out. Growers who have not been able to make firm bookings are encouraged to contact the agro centre to make arrangements for the spring

# NEW PRODUCTS

## Touchdown Total

Syngenta introduced Touchdown Total in 2008, which is replacing Touchdown IQ. There are a few new changes to Touchdown Total making it even better than Touchdown IQ. The new benefits are:

- New antifoam pre-mixed with solution
- Higher concentration (500 g/L acid equivalent)
- Glyphosate present as potassium salt
- Enhanced tank-mixability

Since Touchdown Total has a higher concentration, application rates will need to be adjusted accordingly. Please refer to the table for conversion rates on all types of glyphosate handled by Saskatoon Co-op.

<b>Application Rate (Litre/acre)</b>	<b>Touchdown IQ (360 g/L)</b>	<b>Maverick II Vantage Plus Max (480 g/L)</b>	<b>Touchdown Total (500 g/L)</b>	<b>Factor 540 R/T 540 Roundup Transorb Weather Max (540 g/L)</b>
0.5 L/ac REL	0.5 L/ac	0.38 L/ac	0.36 L/ac	0.33 L/ac
<i>Acres Per Jug</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20(Vmax) 26(Mav)</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>30</i>
1.0 L/ac REL	1.0 L/ac	0.75 L/ac	0.72 L/ac	0.67 L/ac
<i>Acres Per Jug</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10(Vmax) 13(Mav)</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>

## Infinity

Bayer introduced Infinity in 2008. Infinity provides superior, broad-spectrum broadleaf control in all types of wheat and barley. Infinity is a Group 27 herbicide, being the first new mode of action to control broadleaf weeds in 20 years. Pyrasulfotole is the active ingredient that makes Infinity so unique, using three modes of action to control the toughest broadleaf weeds. First pyrasulfotole attacks the photosynthetic system of the weed, stopping it from producing an adequate energy supply. Secondly, it prevents weeds from producing vitamin E, making the weed vulnerable to oxidative stress. Lastly, pyrasulfotole prevents carotenoid production. This means the weed loses its protection from dangerous ultraviolet rays and consequently, the sunlight destroys chlorophyll turning the weed white within days and dies off shortly after. Infinity works extremely fast, with symptoms showing up within 24 hours of application and death occurring between 6 and 14 days. Weeds controlled include wild buckwheat, cleavers, kochia (including group 2 resistant), and 16 other broadleaf weeds. Infinity is registered to be applied alone or tank mixed with Puma Super or Horizon, maintaining excellent efficacy of grassy weed control with superior crop safety on wheat and barley. Infinity's wide window of application is up to the flag leaf stage of both wheat and barley, and from 1 to 6 leaf stage of registered weed species. Infinity is under a very limited supply, therefore growers are encouraged to book their requirements early to ensure they have an opportunity at using agriculture's latest technology.

## **Simplicity**

Dow Agro Science introduced Simplicity in 2008. Simplicity is the only cross-spectrum non-residual herbicide with a new Group 2 chemistry called Pyroxsulam. Simplicity offers growers a unique package of desirable environmental and agronomic features including: cross-spectrum grass and broadleaf weed control; no re-cropping restrictions; very low application rates; crop safety for all types of wheat and durum wheat; tank mix flexibility for increased broadleaf control; and an effective way to manage Group 1 resistant wild oats. It is registered for all varieties of spring wheat and durum wheat in all soil zones. Simplicity is also under a very limited supply during the introduction year, so growers are again encouraged to book early to ensure a supply of agriculture's newest technology in herbicides.

## **Insect Update**

According to Agriculture and Agri food Canada, the forecast map for 2008 indicates that wheat midge populations have further increased over last year in the eastern half of the province. Forecast maps show that rural municipalities north and east of Saskatoon may have infestations greater 1800 midge per meter square. Lorsban the insecticide produced by Dow to help control wheat midge is in short supply. Saskatoon Co-op has taken a position on some Lorsban and Citadel which is a generic insecticide for midge control. Growers are encouraged to communicate with the Agro centre to ensure that they are looked after.

Grasshoppers have also been an issue in the past. The 2008 grasshopper forecast map reveals very light grasshopper infestations throughout most of the province. According to the map there are no areas predicted to have a severe grasshopper outbreak.

## **Fungicide update**

Because of the demand for fungicides on the world market, fungicide supplies in western Canada will be very tight. Given normal rainfall and strong grain prices, I expect growers will protect their investment to a much greater extent in 2008. Once again growers are encouraged to give the Agro centre a call and keep us informed of their intentions.



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